

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 191700Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3446
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 2847

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3453

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF, PLO
SUBJECT: UNRWA AND PLO

REF: BEIRUT 3403.

1. 5 P.M. MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 19, STARTED
OFF WITH DISCUSSION OF PLO PARTICIPATION ADCOM MEETING.
FRENCH, BRITISH, AMBS AND BELGIAN CHARGE ALL AGREED
THAT IF MATTER IS RAISED BY HOST COUNTRY REPS WE
SHOULD ASK IMMEDIATE ADJOURNMENT TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS.
QUESTION OF UN LEGAL COUNSELLOR'S OPINION WAS MENTIONED AND
IT WAS AGREED THAT ONE OF US WOULD ASK CON GEN IF SUCH
A DOCUMENT EXISTED AND UPON ITS PRESENTATION WOULD
INDICATE THAT IT REQUIRED STUDY. IT WAS GENERALLY
AGREED THAT MAXIMUM DELAY FOR RECONVENING ADCOM
SHOULD BE OBTAINED BUT FRENCH AND BRITISH BELIEVED
IT WOULD BE EXPECTING TOO MUCH TO HAVE MORE THAN 5 OR
6 DAY DELAY AND THAT ADCOM WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE
RECONVENED MARCH 26 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. QUESTION
OF ULTIMATE POSITIONS ON PLO PARTICIPATION WAS
DISCUSSED. NO ONE HAS ANY INSTRUCTIONS BUT IT WAS
APPARENT THAT THE FRENCH ANTICIPATE THEY WOULD ABSTAIN,
THE BRITISH TOTALLY UNDECIDED AND BELGIAN HAD NO
IDEA WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WOULD BE. HE
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DID, HOWEVER, READ INSTRUCTION INDICATING THAT

EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DONE TO AVOID AFFIRMATIVE ADCOM ACTION RE PLO PARTICIPATION. BRITISH AND FRENCH INDICATED THEY HAD FIRM INFORMATION THAT TURK WOULD VOTE WITH FOUR HOST COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD OF COURSE MEAN IF WE EVER WERE TO GET THE VOTE, AFFIRMATIVE POSITION WOULD PREVAIL. I DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE SIX MILLION SPECIAL PURPOSES FUND AND REGULAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION, AS WELL AS FUTURE U.S. GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT.

2. BELGIAN RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT IF ARAB SUPPORT WERE TO BE OBTAINED THAT TRADITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS MIGHT REDUCE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FUTURE. BRITISH AND FRENCH WERE QUITE CATEGORIC IN SAYING THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT AND I INDICATED THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS THAT WE WOULD MAINTAIN OUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. DISCUSSION THEN SHIFTED TO POSTPONING RATION REDUCTION ON APRIL 1 AND JORDANIAN HOPE THAT SUCH ACTION MIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 1. I INDICATED THAT IF SIR JOHN WERE TO INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO ACCEDE TO JORDANIAN REQUEST THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT HIM. BRITISH AMB HAS SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS. FRENCH AND BELGIAN HAVE NONE BUT INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE POSITIONS SIMILAR TO OURS.

4. IN CLOSING QUESTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION ONCE AGAIN RAISED AND IT WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT IN VIEW OF RIFAI'S STATEMENT (AMMAN'S 1818) THAT WE HAD SOME REASON TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT PROBLEM WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ARISE.

5. FRENCH AMB MADE AN INTERESTING COMMENT, I.E. THAT A GOOD MANY WEEKS AGO THIS MATTER HAD COME UP OBLIQUELY IN CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH TAKLA. AT THAT TIME TAKLA SAID HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN SOME SORT OF PLO ASSOCIATION WITH ADCOM, FOR THIS MIGHT INCREASE CHANCES OF RICH ARABS
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MAKING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. AMBASSADOR HASTENED TO ADD, HOWEVER, HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT FOLLOWED UP ON THIS CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.
GODLEY

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